including 8 policemen and 3 civilians were killed in 26 incidents during the assembly elections in Bihar and Jharkhand. The naxalites also damaged an EVM in Bihar. Details of properties damaged are not available with the Government.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of Para Military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) removal of socio-cultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Special Task Force in Naxal affected States

†217. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a consensus has been reached to form a Joint Special Task Force in naxalite affected States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said special task-force is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A Task Force on naxalism has been constituted in the Ministry of Home Affairs in October, 2004 which *inter-alia* reviews anti naxalite operations being undertaken by the naxal affected States including those across the State boundaries.

Increase in crimes in Delhi

†218. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the number of incidents involving snatching, dacoit, theft, rape and stealing of vehicles has increased in the capital during the last few years.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.